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SED REPORT ON POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS
WITHIN THE OTTO GROTEWOHL INDUSTRIAL COMBINE AT BOEHLEN

The combine is one of the 66 SAGs (Soviet corporations) returned to GDR control by the Soviets [in spring 1952]. The enterprise had an excellent production record under Soviet administration, but has slackened its pace since its return to German control.

- 1 -

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The combine administration has not matched the enthusiasm of the workers and has not properly utilized the existing initiative of the workers for increasing production. No specific plans have been formulated for proper organization and coordination of work at the combine; internal reserves have not been utilized; bottlenecks in production have not been eliminated; sound production principles have not been established; and the provisions of the Five-Year Plan, SED resolutions, and governmental decrees have not been complied with.

The work norms set up for the combine for 1952 and 1953 were not based upon sound technical foundations, and were repeatedly altered. The combine's Planning Department is generally uninformed, and is incapable of exercising any positive influence on the individual components of the enterprise.

Coordination between the individual administrative departments of the combine is appalling. Manpower statistics for the briquette plant of the combine, given separately by the Planning Department, the Work Department, and a subsidiary of the Work Department, were completely at variance for six months of 1952. Technical improvements have not been taken into account by the Planning Department, full production capacity is not utilized, and repair work is left entirely to chance.

Kahn (fnu), chief of the combine, has been guilty of gross negligence in setting up norms for the plants within the combine. These are worked out and introduced by Seidel (fnu), chief engineer, in violation of the decree of 20 May 1952, which provides that the chief of an enterprise is to bear personal responsibility for the establishment of the norms utilized by the enterprise.

The work director of the combine has failed to follow through on the execution of his own directives, and has tolerated discrepancies between the Five-Year-Plan figures for the combine and the work norms established for the combine.

Confusion exists in various departments of the combine insofar as the utilization of manpower, the prices of materials, etc. are concerned, so that it is impossible to make any exact surveys of actual production. Competitions within the combine have been poorly conducted, proper evaluations of these competitions are far behind schedule and therefore of little use for any practical purposes, and the workers are thoroughly confused by the multiplicity of simultaneous competitions.

The investigation has shown that the wage funds for the combine have been padded, and that no real efforts have been made to reduce production costs, to maintain accurate records, or to practice economy. The manager of the briquette plant has openly expressed his contempt concerning the accuracy of the records maintained by the plant. Nepotism exists in the various plants of the combine.

The ultimate blame for this sorry state of affairs must rest in large measure with the SED party organization within the combine. Party leaders in the plants not only have been remiss in carrying out even their most basic functions, but were glib and evasive when discussing their duties with the investigating brigade. The party organizations in the plants of the combine have not passed along or discussed the resolutions of the Central Committee of the SED, basic political units in the plants have not been organized; the distribution and dissemination of political newspapers and directives have been carried out in a purely perfunctory manner; political recruitment has remained at a standstill; and political meetings within the combine have been dull and routine, and not well attended. No attempt has been made to foster political activity among the workers themselves.

An evaluation of the work of the investigating brigade was made at the office of the regional secretariat of the SED, in the presence of responsible officials of the combine; and appropriate measures for the improvement of the work of the

- 2 -

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combine's administrators and of the party leaders within the combine were formulated as follows:

1. The members of the combine administration shall undertake to improve the operation of the enterprise, and shall make special efforts to overcome existing bottlenecks and shortcomings in the technological processes of the enterprise. The manpower, finance, and repair plans shall be based upon accurate data, and all inner reserves of the combine shall be utilized. This program will require changes in the present irresponsible method of working out the norms for the plants. The directives of the investigating brigade shall be utilized as the basis for working out the new norms. Accurate accounting methods shall be used in computing production costs and production output. The plant administrations shall insure that the departments and brigades within the enterprise are informed of their specific tasks in this connection.

Improvement suggestions shall be processed more quickly than heretofore, in order to encourage the initiative of the workers, and stress shall be laid on the elimination of production bottlenecks. The resolution of the SED Central Committee concerning rigid economy practices shall be utilized as a basis for these efforts.

2. The decisive role of the party within the combine shall be reestablished, and self-criticism shall be developed as fully as possible in order that the present habit of camouflaging mistakes and shortcomings may be eliminated. The poor quality of leadership of the basic party organizations, the poor liaison with the workers, and the underestimation of the value of propaganda work must be eliminated. For this purpose, it will be necessary that the party leaders in the combine conduct a carefully prepared party meeting at which a full evaluation of the report of the investigating brigade shall be made; and the report shall be made a matter of vital concern to every worker within the combine.

The resolution of the Central Committee of the SED, of February 1951, shall be studied for the purpose of improving political activity among the workers, and appropriate measures shall be taken toward this end.

The lessons inherent in the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union shall be studied; and the party functionaries, propagandists, and agitators shall be required to attend seminars dealing with these lessons so that they may be able to discuss intelligently the paramount issues of soundly based work norms, and norms for raw material consumption. Party functionaries shall draw up plans of action having as their purpose the accomplishment of these measures.

3. In order that the basic foundations for socialist competitions may be laid, the members of the party administration within the combine shall confer with the members of the administration and the trade union leaders of the combine concerning the introduction of measures toward this end.

4. The former method of formal promulgation of resolutions shall be eliminated. Resolutions shall be discussed at open party meetings and measures for their execution shall be formulated. The secretariat of the Borna SED Kreis directorate demands that all plant party organizations within Kreis Borna call meetings of the plant party leaders, make a full evaluation of this report on the conditions in the Otto Grotewohl Combine, and draw the necessary conclusions from the report for the purposes of improving their own efforts.

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- 3 -

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